

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, ranking members Hwang, Somers and Petit and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Scott Schweizer and I am a long time resident of Norwalk, CT. I am a military veteran and parent. I am also a supporter of gun safety and CAGV.

As a veteran I am horrified by the amount of preventable gun violence that occurs daily across our state and country. I am also deeply troubled by the lack of political action on behalf of common sense initiatives that recognize and resolve problems. It is encouraging that bills have been put forward in this committee and others that include provisions to address the crisis of community gun violence in Connecticut: HB-5397, SB-477 and SB-16.

I am writing to encourage you to vote in favor of these bills, in particular HB-5397, An Act Declaring Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, as it incorporates important components that should be present in whichever bill is voted out of your committee:

- It declares gun violence a public health crisis.
- It houses the solution in the Department of Public Health where it can have the greatest impact.
- It has mechanisms to include voices of those most impacted by community gun violence.
- It includes a robust data gathering and research capacity to drive evidence-informed grant-making.
- It calls for funding commensurate with the magnitude of the crisis.

For too long we have waited. The time to act is now. With your leadership we can make meaningful strides in improving public safety without interfering with any of the public's rights. We only need you to stand with the people of CT and not be swayed by the often hostile rhetoric of special interest and marketing groups.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to your favorable action.

Sincerely,

Scott Schweizer

Norwalk, CT